FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 27th September 2022
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A**.** Kilbee, Cllr N. Arthur, Cllr J. Miller, Cllr P.Trew, Cllr J. Black
In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

22.108 HM Queen Elizabeth II
Cllr Kilbee led a minute silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

22.109 Visiting speakers
Cllr Mellen was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a copy of his DC and CC reports in advance, which can be found as addendums at the end of the minutes.

22.110 Contribution by Members of the Public
None.

22.111 Apologies and approval of absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Winter and Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

22.112 To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest from Members and any Gifts of Hospitality.
Cllr Black declared a pecuniary interest against agenda item 28(a).

22.113 To consider requests for dispensations on agenda items
None received.

22.114 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2022
Cllr Trew proposed approving the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2022 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Miller and approved unanimously with one abstention (Cllr who was not present at the meeting). The Chairman then signed the minute book.

22.115 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2022
All covered elsewhere on agenda.

22.116 Chairman's Report
I am sorry that we have had to postpone our September meeting but the passing of our Queen on the Thursday that the Agenda was published resulted in a suspension of the days that it had to be on public display before the meeting. Hence the cancellation.
Before I forget, we shall need to order a new Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. I shall ask Jane to put this on the agenda for the next meeting but I feel that we should order it now.
I received an email from Chris Hooper of Walnut Tree Cottage regarding the state of the fence between his garden and the Churchyard. It is in a very sad state and needs to be replaced. The question is, to whom does it belong? He has had legal advice and it is not too clear so, I have asked Andrew Strickland to find out from the Church Authorities if our responsibility extends to the fence. As we are not responsible for the fabric of the building, it may mean that the maintenance of the fence is not in our remit. I am awaiting an answer.
I have received an enquiry from a lady who is trying to establish the position of a grave in the Cemetery. This should be relatively easy but I am a bit worried that this part of the cemetery is not very well recorded.
Those of you who have been to the Cemetery will have seen that Liam Cracknell has installed another gate onto his property so that we can drive the mower through. Unfortunately, the bricklayer has built the gate on a plinth which means that the mower cannot be driven through it. We shall have to build some sort of ramp on both sides before it can be used. At the moment, there is no fence, so we are still able to cross his garden.

Some of you may know that there was an incident a week or so ago where there was a requirement to use our defibrillator. Unfortunately, the Ambulance Service was unable to give the caller the code as they had no knowledge of its existence This proved to be a surprise to us, as Catherine had registered it at the time it was installed. Obviously, an administration fault by the Ambulance Service. I do not know the details but I understand that the patient was treated at the scene by the Paramedics. This was lucky, as it could have been much worse, especially as the equipment was on hand but access was denied by someone's ineptitude. I am happy to report that between Catherine and Jane, our defib is on the map.

22.117 Clerk's Report

- National Grid East Anglia GREEN proposal: In August Jo Churchill MP advised that following the non-statutory consultation, local MPs decided to undertake a survey of the communities who would be most affected by the plans. They were keen to understand the perceptions that local residents had of the consultation and the options they were given regarding transmission of the generated electricity. This was due to National Grid stating in a recent meeting that an offshore option was meaningfully discussed in the consultation. There was a survey conducted through the website of James Cartlidge MP, the results of which found that almost 100% of the 1,040 participants who responded rejected National Grid's claim that their consultation meaningfully covered offshore alternatives. James Cartlidge MP has therefore written to National Grid asking that the consultation be reopened.
  National Grid have advised they are conducting walkover surveys to assess the landscape, ecology and cultural heritage of the area, to inform further detailed environmental assessments: Landscape, ecology and heritage surveys | National Grid ET
- MSDC have advised that the annual Play Inspection is due to place in October but are yet to confirm the date.
- A remittance has been received from MSDC confirming payment of the second half of the precept this month.
- Police Connect have sent a reminder for residents, especially those living in rural locations to regularly check fuel levels and security of fuel tanks.
  This follows a report of approximately 2000ltrs of heating oil stolen from a property in Redgrave. It is believed the theft occurred some in the past month sometime between Tuesday 30th August and Sunday 25th September.
  Further security advice from Suffolk Police: heatingoilsecurity1.pdf (suffolk.police.uk)

22.118 To discuss the emergency plan.

Ongoing; no update.

22.119 To discuss and approve an Annual Newsletter to everyone in the village, incl. approval of Newsletter name.

After discussing, Cllr Kilbee proposed calling the newsletter the 'Finningham Flyer', with a by-line for the Parish Council underneath; seconded by Cllr Miller and approved unanimously. The newsletter itself will be discussed further at the next meeting.

22.120 To discuss the footpath from the crossroads to the green

Cllr Kilbee reported that the project has now been passed to a new SCC Highways Officer, who has advised that the initial suggested process of a S278 design and build by a contractor is not appropriate. Also as the Parish Council is not a developer it does not meet the criteria for this legal process. The Highways Officer has said therefore, that as with all Local Highways schemes, it will need to go through Suffolk Highways which it is not quite as simple as a contractor turning up to site and constructing a new footway. Following another site meeting held on 16th August with Cllr Kilbee, Highways have provided an estimate of £32,500 - £37,500 (inc. VAT) for the work, plus a fixed professional services fee of £3,013.25 (in VAT). The Clerk has asked MSDC Infrastructure if the project is eligible for a CIL fund bid during the next round which is in October, and has been advised that a joint application needs to be submitted with Suffolk Highways. The Clerk is now waiting for a response from Suffolk Highways on how to progress a joint application. Councillors discussed the update on the footpath noting their disappointment that the original option of a contractor build was no longer viable, and unanimously approved proceeding with the CIL bid application.

ACTION –Clerk to progress CIL fund bid application with Suffolk Highways for the October round.

22.121 To discuss flooding in Westhorpe Road

Suffolk Highways conducted drainage works on the 30th and 31st August in Westhorpe Road. Cllr Kilbee said the road was completely dry following the recent rainfall, which was a good indicator

that the work has resolved the flooding issues. Councillors agreed to monitor the problem and add it as an agenda item again should there be evidence of further flooding in the future.

22.122 Parish Council Communications including Database and Facebook page update
The flyers asking residents to contact the Clerk if they wish to be included on a Parish Council database, were kindly circulated by Cllr Mellen with his recent leaflet drop. The response so far has been very good. The Clerk has been working on a Facebook page for the Parish Council which will be ready to go live in the next week. Cllr Kilbee requested that the next agenda be circulated to everyone in the database so far, in addition to being published on the noticeboard and website.
ACTION – Clerk to collate resident's details for database, and finish setting up the Facebook page.

22.123 Village green: to discuss permanent power supply and play equipment development
Following a suggestion from Cllr Winter, Cllr Kilbee has spoken to UK Power Networks to see how much it would cost to install a permanent power supply on the green. They have provided a budget estimate of £5,827.00 plus the ongoing standing charges and daily rates. In comparison a good quality low noise level generator would cost approximately £2,000.00. After discussing the costs and benefits, councillors agreed unanimously not to proceed with a permanent power supply and to look at generators in more detail at the next meeting.
ACTION – Cllr Kilbee/councillors to research generators for October meeting

22.124 SID (Speed Indicator Device) locations
Cllr Trew reported that there has been some vandalism to the SID resulting in the mounting bracket being snapped and broken. This occurred whilst the device was positioned on Station Road; it appears someone tried to twist the device round on the pole to make it face in the opposite direction. Since this incident the device has been moved between the other locations but has not been put back on Station Road. An email has been received from a resident requesting it be positioned back on Station Road, but councillors agreed that whilst there is a replacement bracket, they are reluctant to put it back in that location in case the same thing happens again, and the device itself gets broken. Cllr Trew and Cllr Arthur discussed ways to securely fix the device to the pole on Station Road so it could not be twisted or damaged, and agreed to look into it further.
ACTION – Cllr Trew/Cllr Arthur as above

22.125 Correspondence received
All dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

22.126 Parish Council Insurance Renewal 2022/23
Cllr Trew proposed proceeding with the renewal quote provided by Community Action Suffolk; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to instruct Community Action Suffolk to proceed with the insurance renewal due on 1st October 2022.

22.127 SAAA 2022 External Audit opt out communication
Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments) is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities. The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. Whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out no later than 28 October 2022.
After discussing, Cllr Arthur proposed the council do not opt out and allow SAAA to appoint the external auditor for the next 5-year period. Seconded by Cllr Trew and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to advise SAAA as above

22.128 Finance
a. RFO's report (bank balance, receipts, and payments)

Balances as of 29/07/2022
Community Bank Account
Balance as of 29 July 2022: £22,864.86
(Balance as of 29 June 2022: £23,275.46)
Receipts (since 29 June 2022): £0.00
Payments (since 29 June 2022): £410.60
Deposit Account
Balance as of 29 July 2022: £3,330.43

General funds: £12,263.29
Reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs): £4,256.85
Restricted funds (CIL & grants not spent): £9,675.15

b. Requests for payment
Admin J. Challis - £380.36
HMRC J. Challis - £95.20
Clerk expenses (J. Challis mileage/sight test for VDU) - £70.32
CAS (insurance renewal) - £478.23
Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator pads) - £60.00
Doug Aiken expenses (post/post mix) - £67.00

Direct Debit payments:
NEST (N. Hill) - £62.94
ICO (annual data protection fee) - £35.00
SSE SWALEC £32.34

TOTAL payments - £1,281.39

The payment to Community Heartbeat Trust was paid by bank transfer in August; spending up to £200.00 for this having been approved at the meeting held on 12th July 2022.
The payment to Doug Aiken was paid by bank transfer in August (email approval agreed at the meeting held on 12th July 2022, and received from all councillors) .

Cllr Arthur proposed authorisation of the above payments; seconded by Cllr Trew and approved unanimously.
ACTION - Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Winter to pay the remaining above approved payments by bank transfer (dual authorisation), except the ICO fee, NEST and SSE SWALEC payments, which are paid by direct debit.
Cllr Black to confirm he has access to online banking.

22.129 To consider and approve Standing Orders
Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.130 To consider and approve Financial Regulations
Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.131 To consider and approve Internet Banking Policy
Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.132 To consider and approve Asset Register
Deferred to October meeting.

22.133 To consider and approve Internal Control Statement
Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.134 To consider and approve Risk Assessment for Volunteers
Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.135 Planning
a. To consider applications
- DC/22/04486 – Application for Planning Permission – Householder application – Erection of three bay cartlodge with home office over. Black Horse Barn, Walsham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4JN.

8:37pm Cllr Black left the room having previously declared a pecuniary interest against this item.
After discussing councillors agreed they have no objection to this application.
8:39pm Cllr Black re-joined the meeting.

ACTION - Clerk to add no objection comment to MSDC planning portal

b. Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

- GRANTED: DC/22/02811 – Application for Planning Permission. Planning Application – Erection of an open Dutch style barn for storing machinery, equipment, and hay for agricultural purposes. Mill Farm, Station Road, Finningham, IP14 4TH

22.136 Questions to Chairman
None.

22.137 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the October agenda.
None.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm

District Councillor Report: Andrew Mellen - Bacton ward Sept. 2022

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

Councillor Andrew Mellen

Tree Canopy Survey	As part of the biodiversity action plan, MSDC has been working with specialists to identify and map existing tree cover and habitat corridors across the district. BMSDC were the first rural councils to commission such a survey. Mid Suffolk's tree cover sits at an average of just over 8% ranging from 6% in the Stow Thorney ward to 12.8% in the Claydon and Barham ward. It is hoped that this survey will enable the council to apply for funding to increase a new tree planting strategy, the report and findings will be published in due course.
Cost of Living crisis	Targeted support packages to help with the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Mid Suffolk District Councils, residents should check they are receiving any support that they are entitled to.
Become a Councillor event 29th Sept.	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are holding an information event to raise awareness of the role of district and parish councillors. It hopes to attract a more diverse group of candidates for next year's local elections. This will be on Thursday 29th September 4.00 – 6.30 pm at Endeavour House in Ipswich. To register for this event please email committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.
What's next for Stowmarket	There will be a 'pop-up' exhibition to showcase a range of projects and proposals for Stowmarket on 22nd – 24th September at the John Peel Centre. Included will be the Gateway 14 project, the Health and Wellbeing Hub proposal for Chilton area, and the Stowmarket Culture Group.
Waste	Suffolk Waste partnership is backing a national campaign about the safe disposal of batteries. If batteries are put into general waste, the contaminate the waste stream and can even start fires within the waste freighter or in landfill. West Suffolk and Babergh Mid Suffolk have received £60k of funding from chewing gum manufacturers to help clean the streets and pavements of used gum.
Council meetings	Some council meetings have been postponed due to the national period of mourning, including planning committee A (due to be held on Weds 14th Sept) and full council (which was scheduled for Thursday 22nd Sept.)

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Parish Report – September 2022

Councillor Andy Mellen

Division: Thedwastre North

Councillor contact details

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Update on Ukrainian Refugees in Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has provided an update with how many Ukrainian refugees are currently in Suffolk and awaiting to be granted entry to our county. Below is a table showing how many arrivals also currently have sponsors (as of 23rd August 2022):

Lower Tier Local Authority	Number of Visa applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Babergh	204	192	156
East Suffolk	418	400	327
Ipswich	142	115	90
Mid Suffolk	265	254	204
West Suffolk	375	348	282

The second table below shows how Suffolk compares to our neighbouring counties:

Upper Tier Local Authority	Number of Visas applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Suffolk	1,404	1,309	1,059
Cambridgeshire	2,017	1,885	1,500
Essex	2,171	2,000	1,567
Norfolk	1,511	1,371	1,080

Solar Together Suffolk – This year's registration now open

Solar Together is a project endorsed by SCC for residents and small/medium businesses to group-buy solar panels and battery storage – this provides buyers with the security of an approved installer, at a discount on normal rates. Registration has just opened, and applicants can apply up until the 26th September.

For more information, please visit: https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home

EV Charging – Expressions of Interest

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Says Thank You to our Fire Service

Community leaders, as well as our Group, recognise the stellar work done by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service during the heatwave and very dry weather. Crews have been called to more than 1,300 incidents since the start of July, making it one of the busiest years on record for the service. With such heavy demand, our Group wish to extend our thanks to all involved.

Suffolk GLI has a Facebook Page!

Our Group want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to connect with us and learn about what we're doing as the elected opposition.

Suffolk GLI are on many platforms (see list at the bottom of the page) but have decided to create a Facebook page to ensure all users have access to our content.

Search on Facebook for 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group', and connect with us!

Great British Beach Clean: September!

Every September, thousands of people across the UK head to the coast to take part in this week-long campaign. This year's is taking place between 16th-25th September. If you would like to be take part, contact the Council's AONB Countryside Projects Officer, Neil Lister - neil.lister@suffolk.gov.uk.

Follow us on:

Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook (New!) - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council (suffolkgli.wordpress.com)